

What are the Mosaic laws governing the forbidding of certain admixtures in food, clothing, worship, etc.? And what are the New Testament applications of the principles?



The Mosaic laws forbidding certain “admixtures” are found mainly in the Holiness Code and Deuteronomy. The underlying Hebrew idea is often *kil’ayim*, “mixed kinds.” These laws were object lessons in separation, purity, and holiness.

## 1. Mosaic Laws Forbidding Admixtures

### A. Agricultural mixtures

- **Leviticus 19:19** – “You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed.”
- **Deuteronomy 22:9** – “You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, or the whole yield will be forfeited.”

This prohibited mixing different seed types in the same field or vineyard.

### B. Animal mixtures and yoking

- **Leviticus 19:19** – “You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind.”
- **Deuteronomy 22:10** – “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.”

This prohibited crossbreeding different kinds of animals and yoking unequal animals together for work.

### C. Clothing mixtures

- **Leviticus 19:19** – “Nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.”
- **Deuteronomy 22:11** – “You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together.”

This is the law of *sha’atnez*, specifically forbidding wool and linen woven together in ordinary Israelite clothing.

### D. Food laws and admixtures

- **Clean and unclean animals** – Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14.
- **No eating blood or fat** – Leviticus 3:17; 7:23–27; 17:10–14.

- **“You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk”** – Exodus 23:19; 34:26; Deuteronomy 14:21.

This later became the basis in Jewish tradition for separating meat and dairy.

The Torah itself does not forbid all meat/dairy mixtures; it specifically forbids boiling a kid in its mother’s milk. Rabbinic Judaism later expanded this into general separation.

## E. Worship and sacred admixtures

- **No leaven or honey in grain offerings** – Leviticus 2:11.
- **Salt required with offerings** – Leviticus 2:13.
- **No offering blood with leaven** – Exodus 23:18; 34:25.
- **Holy incense and anointing oil not to be copied or misused** – Exodus 30:9, 31–38.
- **No syncretism with pagan worship** – Deuteronomy 12:29–31; Israel was not to worship Yahweh using pagan practices.

These worship laws prohibited mixing holy and common, true worship and pagan ritual.

## 2. The Purpose of These Laws

The Mosaic mixture laws were not arbitrary. They taught Israel:

- **Holiness and separation:** “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy” (Leviticus 19:2).
- **Order in creation:** God created distinct kinds; Israel was to respect boundaries.
- **No syncretism:** Israel was not to mix true faith with pagan practices.
- **Visible object lessons:** Daily life—farming, clothing, food, worship—reminded Israel they were set apart.

## 3. New Testament Applications of the Principles

The New Testament treats the literal ceremonial/food/clothing mixture laws as fulfilled in Christ and not binding on believers, but it strongly reaffirms the underlying spiritual principles.

### A. The literal ceremonial laws are fulfilled

- **Mark 7:18–19** – Jesus declared all foods clean.
- **Acts 10:15** – “What God has made clean, do not call common.”
- **Romans 14:14** – “I am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself.”
- **Colossians 2:16–17** – Food laws, festivals, and Sabbaths were “a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”
- **1 Timothy 4:4–5** – Everything created by God is good if received with thanksgiving.

So Christians are not bound by the Old Testament food laws, mixed-fabric rules, or agricultural mixture laws.

## B. The spiritual principles are reaffirmed

### 1. Separation from idolatry and false worship

- **1 Corinthians 10:20–22** – “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons.”
- Believers must not mix Christian worship with paganism or idolatry.

### 2. No unequal yoking with unbelievers

- **2 Corinthians 6:14** – “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.”  
This likely echoes Deuteronomy 22:10, the ox and donkey yoked together. The New Testament applies the principle to binding partnerships, marriage, and spiritual alliances that compromise faith.
- See also **1 Corinthians 7:39** – marry “only in the Lord.”

### 3. Purity from sin and false teaching

- **1 Corinthians 5:6–8** – Paul uses leaven as a picture of sin: “Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump.”
- **Galatians 5:9** – “A little leaven leavens the whole lump,” referring to false teaching.
- **Matthew 16:6, 12** – Jesus warned against the “leaven” of the Pharisees and Sadducees, meaning false doctrine.

### 4. Holiness in life, not merely external rules

- **1 Peter 1:15–16** – “As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,” quoting Leviticus.
- **James 1:27** – Pure religion is keeping oneself “unstained from the world.”

### 5. True worship in Spirit and truth

- **John 4:23–24** – Worship is no longer about external ritual mixtures but about worshiping God in Spirit and truth.

## Summary

The Mosaic laws against admixtures—in seeds, animals, fabrics, food, and worship—taught Israel to be holy, distinct, and free from syncretism. The New Testament does not impose the literal ceremonial rules on Christians, but it applies the same principles spiritually: believers are to avoid being unequally yoked with unbelief, to flee idolatry, to purge sin and false doctrine, and to live holy lives separated to God.